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NEW PLACE AND ITS GARDENS

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NEW PLACE HASLEMERE
AND ITS GARDENS





NEW PLACE FROM THE LILY POND

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NEW PLACE HASLEMERE AND ♥ ♥ ♥ ITS GARDENS

WITH A FRONTISPIECE IN COLOUR
AND TWENTY OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

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THE ENTRANCE COURT

NEW PLACE HASLEMERE AND ITS GARDENS

IN New Place, Sir Algernon and Lady Methuen have built themselves not a “lordly pleasure house” but a charming country home, of which the gardens form an integral and very important part. I say

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“gardens” advisedly, for there are really a series of enclosures each one complete in



THE SOUTH FRONT FROM THE LOWER GARDEN

itself and yet leading one to another, and so forming a perfectly harmonious whole. It is a case of “gardens in gardens”.

The house, designed by Mr. Charles Voysey, is a charming specimen of his art and stands nearly 700 ft. above the sea level,



THE SOUTH FRONT FROM THE UPPER TERRACE

on the slopes of Hindhead. It is in white roughcast with a grey-green roof, and blends delightfully with the elaborate formal gardens immediately in front of it. These gardens with



THE ENTRANCE TO THE
HERBACEOUS GARDEN

their wealth of walls were part of the architect's design: the other gardens were added by Sir Algernon and Lady Methuen.

We ought to say here, in general, that at New Place the most has been made of difficult conditions. Owners of gardens at Haslemere can be congratulated on the lovely scenery that surrounds them, but they must also be

pitied for
the very
unpromis-
ing soil in
which they
have to
grow their
shrubs and
flowers.

The soil of
most of the
garden on
Hindhead
is pure
sand and,
though
much can
be done to
enrich it,

it is quite impossible to change it into
loam or limestone. It is therefore only by



THE FOUNTAIN IN THE HERBACEOUS
GARDEN

superhuman exertions that you can grow good roses and those plants, shrubs and fruit trees which require a substantial soil.



THE FRENCH PEASANT IN
THE HERBACEOUS GARDEN

The formal gardens of New Place are built at right angles to the house on a succession of terraces facing west, and most of the paths are paved with stones from old Christ's Hospital. And here the mind and heart of the owners are plainly traceable in the perfect way in which the formal gardens next to the house gradually merge into the informal and wild parts further down the slopes.

The upper garden, well above the house, is quite formal and is enclosed by a red brick wall. It is devoted to herbaceous plants and has a small round pond with a lead fountain-



THE WROUGHT-IRON ITALIAN GATES

statue, by Mr. R. F. Wells. There is another charming bronze by the same artist of a French peasant woman in this garden. By an iron gate the bowling green is approached.

This is shut off from the tennis lawn above it by a most effective red brick arcading and fine Italian wrought-iron gates. These gates are more than two centuries old and came from the fine old house of Athelhampton, in Dorset. The view of the tennis lawn enclosure through the gates and arcading is most attractive. *Azara Microphylla*, a hardy shrub with dark finely divided ever-green foliage, is here rightly used against the brick pillars—and on the south wall by the tennis lawn many fine plants of *Romneya Coulteri* are flourishing.

From the bowling green, with its very original arbour, you descend to the grass terrace overlooking the wealth of colour in the lower gardens and with a fine though restricted view of the South Downs : then by more steps to the lower garden immediately under the house. This is a quadrangle with a sundial resting on a pillar from the balustrade

of old London Bridge in the centre of its green sward and with Junipers at the corners. On the east side is a high retaining wall clothed



ABUTILON VITIFOLIUM ON THE WEST WALL

with many beautiful shrubs, chief of which I would mention *Abutilon Vitifolium*, which on June 24th was in full flower and the centre

of a most artistic group, of which *Anchusa* Opal, a double white Chinese *Pæony* and a pale blue *Delphinium* made up the component parts. The pale mauve flowers of the *Abutilon* against the cool grey wall, and the blues and white of the other flowers made a beautiful and refreshing picture on that blazing midsummer day—a picture that will ever remain in my mind as a perfect bit of flower grouping. On the opposite side is a long narrow border filled with *Nepeta* Mussini and *Anchusa* Opal—another lovely colour scheme worth noting.

Altogether this lower garden, so refreshingly restful in colour and design, seems just right under the windows of the house. One comes upon it also from the drive through two other old Italian gates and down a steep flight of stone steps, the sides hung with *Rose* *Félicité et Perpetue*.

Robinia *Hispida* (the *Rose* *Acacia*) with

its pink flowers trained on a light green trellis is most effective against the white wall of the house. On the walls of the lower



THE PERGOLA

garden are *Escallonia Langleyensis*, *Escallonia Phillipiana*, *Sophora Grandiflora*, *Sophora Tetraptera*, *Hydrangea Scandens*, and a fine specimen of *Fremontia Californica* with



IN THE SMALL ROCK GARDEN

its beautiful yellow blossoms.

From this garden you pass into the small Rose garden enclosed by walls and a battlemented yew hedge. Here fine plants of *Phlomis Fruticosa* are flourishing

on the top of the retaining wall. Thence you descend to the small Rock garden, Pergola, Wild garden, Pond garden, second Rock garden and Japanese garden.



IN THE WILD GARDEN

[13]



THE SMALL ROCK GARDEN

The Wild garden consists of a long grass slope, facing west, in which groups of silver birches are mingled with beds of flowering shrubs and rambling roses. Much of the beauty

of the New Place garden is derived from the massing of flowers and shrubs of the



THE LILY POND

same sort, and in the Wild garden great beds of *Viburnum Plicatum*, *Ozothamnus*, Tree Lupins, *Exochorda* and many sorts of *Spiræas*, *Magnolias* and other flowering shrubs are very effective. There are no little scraps of anything, and the effects are broad and spacious.

In the Pond garden the Water Lilies claim first attention—beautiful groups of crimson, primrose, white and white suffused on the outer petals with pink, floating on the water like so many jewels. Round about are *Ramondias*, *Orchises* and many other choice plants which revel in congenial surroundings—and for shrubs there are *Kalmias*, *Citrus Trifoliata*, *Cæsalpinia Japonica*, *Ribes Speciosum*, *Indigofera*, various *Magnolias*, *Rosa Polyantha simplex* (delightfully fragrant) and masses of *Olearia Gunni* and *Ozothamnus Rosmarinifolius*. The last named is a beautiful shrub closely covered with minute white flowers, each one like a microscopic anemone-

centred *Pyrethrum*. A grass walk from the Pond garden leads past several more bushes



FOXGLOVES AND PÆONIES

of this *Ozothamnus* to a large crescent-shaped bed of crimson and white Foxgloves, most effectively interplanted with Pæonies.



THE LONG ROCK GARDEN

The large Rock garden, which runs from north to south, is built on each side of a grass path leading from the Pond garden to the Japanese garden, and here we have colour in plenty—masses of

Saxifrage and Dianthus in variety, Heuchera, Campanula, Linum Arboreum, Oxalis Eneaphylla, Hypericum Polyphyllum, Primula Sikkimensis, Primula Bulleyana, and many

others. *Tropæolum Polyphyllum* I must specially mention ; it is such a beautiful plant and not often seen : the orange flowers and the glaucous grey-green foliage reminding one



PRIMULA JAPONICA IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN

of the Mandarin variety of *Eschscholtzia*. Owing to its sprawling habit it is eminently suited for planting at the top of a low retain-



THE RHODODENDRON WALK

ing wall, or where it can overhang a rock. *Mecynopsis Paniculata*, *Walli-chi* and *Integrifolia* dominate a small bay.

From this Rock garden another grass walk with *Rhododendron* on each side leads to the bottom of the Wild garden, and another walk leads to large beds of Rambler Roses and Irises.

The grass walk, which divides the large



ENTRANCE TO THE JAPANESE GARDEN



IN THE JAPANESE GARDEN

or lower Rock garden, leads by a bridge over a pond to the Japanese garden. At the bottom, near a large Japanese lantern,



THE JAPANESE TEA-HOUSE

was a magnificent bed of *Primula Japonica*, and the path leads upwards past several small ponds to a Japanese tea-house, covered

with Wistaria Multijuga. Every plant in this garden is of Japanese origin.

The gardens of New Place are open to the public on Sundays in May and June, and are visited by a large number of people most of whom, although they may not be botanists or horticulturists, can appreciate a charming picture. For in these gardens no attempt has been made to form a collection of rarities or to specialise in any direction. Rather have the owners tried to paint a series of garden pictures which may refresh in mind and body those who see them, and which may linger in the memory, reminding us that "gardening is the purest of human pleasures."

W. B. DUGGAN

(This description appeared in "THE GARDEN" of Aug. 6th, 1921. It has been slightly altered.)

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